



**ARIZONA READY EDUCATION COUNCIL  
GRADUATION/DROPOUT PREVENTION TASKFORCE**

**September 18, 2012 @ 3:00 p.m.**

**Executive Tower  
1700 W. Washington  
3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Conference Room  
Phoenix, AZ 85007**

**Meeting Notes**

**Members Present:** Chair Merl Waschler (telephonic), Rhian Allvin, Cathleen Barton, Rusty Bowers, Pearl Esau (telephonic), Diane McCarthy, Co-chair Darcy Renfro, Dr. Kent Scribner, Carolyn Warner, and Dr. Jim Zaharis.

**Members Not Present:** Mark Dobbins, Amanda McAdams, and Dr. Amy Schlessman

**Staff Present:** Rebecca Gau, and Kerry McConnell

**Call to Order, Welcome, & Introductions**

Merl Waschler had a scheduling conflict, but will be joining this meeting later via phone. In his stead, Co-chair Darcy Renfro and staff Rebecca Gau will be chairing this meeting.

Co-chair Darcy Renfro called the meeting to order at 3:13 p.m. provided welcoming remarks and introduces the purpose of this meeting, which was to continue the discussion of several issues from the previous meeting including the graduation/dropout and CTE research plans, ECAPS, and the taskforce's evolving recommendations.

**Approval of Meeting Minutes**

Diane McCarthy moved for the approval of the August 21, 2012 Task force meeting minutes as presented. Rhian Allvin seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

**Presentation: ECAPS**

Co-Chair Renfro introduced Maxine Daly with the Arizona Department of Education. Ms Daly explained first that ECAP stood for Education and Career Action Plan and should reflect a student's current plan of coursework, career aspirations and extended learning opportunities to develop the student's individual academic and career goals. Currently there are requirements,

effective for the graduation class of 2013, for schools to complete an ECAP for every student in grades 9-12 and that a parent review and sign the ECAP. Ms. Daly explained that ideally, the initial plan is developed in middle school and updated annually during high school and postsecondary years. The ECAP is intended to put the student in the “driver’s seat” and is unique to the individuals as well as help students answer the questions; “Who am I?” “Where am I going?” “What do I need to get there?” “What are my next steps?” Ms. Daly then reviewed the attributes of ECAP which includes;

- Academic information and goals
  - Plan coursework
  - Meet high school requirements
  - Document postsecondary education goals
  - Review academic progress to include needed interventions or advisements
  - Record academic achievement or awards
- Career information and goals
  - Identify postsecondary career plans, options, interests or skills
  - Explore career opportunities
  - Explore needed educational requirements to meet the career option
- Postsecondary information and options
  - Explore admissions requirements
  - Complete necessary applications
  - Create a financial assistance plan
- Documentation of extra-curricular opportunities
  - Clubs, organizations, CTSO
  - Other leadership opportunities
  - Athletics / recreational
  - Fine arts opportunities
  - Community service or volunteer activities
  - Work experience, internship, job shadow
  - Other activities

Ms. Daly then explained that ECAPs gives educators an opportunity to develop personal relationships with all students, focus on student centered learning, deliver rigorous, engaging, essential instruction, and bring relevance to the real world. The task force members then asked Ms. Daly if she had a “wish list” for the ECAP program. Ms Daly indicated that she would like to have a coalition of funding for the AZ CIS system, which is an online system that follows students and allows them access and frequent review of their ECAP. Ms Daly also indicated that there was need for support from the Governor and local business. Members then discussed ways that the Taskforce may be able to assist in the further implementation of ECAP throughout the state.

### **Discussion: Graduation/Dropout Research Plan**

Co-Chair Renfro introduced Kerry McConnell to review the Graduation/Dropout Research Plan. A draft of this research plan was included in the meeting materials at the August 21, 2012 Taskforce meeting. Members requested that the following revisions be made;

- People who do the first level of observation are the same people who will make the change
- Expand who will be interviewed in the community
- How will finding be distributed

Ms. McConnell advised that she would make the requested changes and bring the updates document to the November 1 meeting for further review and discussion. Jim Zaharis moved for the approval of the school identification portion of the Graduation/Dropout Research Plan. Diane McCarthy seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

### **Update & Discussion: CTE Research Questions & Progress**

Ms. McConnell gave a brief update on the CTE Research project. She advised that she is continuing her talks with Patti Beltram on the data request. She has also recently spoken to Joe O'Reilly on possible data from Mesa. Ms. McConnell has also been in touch with the Morrison Institute who is conducting large scope research on the same areas allowing for possible data sharing opportunity.

### **Discussion & Revision: Updated Recommendations**

Co-Chair Renfro introduced Rebecca Gau to update the Task force on the current recommendations. Ms. Gau advised that the recommendations have not been updated since July. Ms. Gau asked members to think on what they would like to see as revisions in the recommendations especially for pages 5 and 6. Members agreed to have staff draft a new recommendation document and this new document will be discussed in detail at the next meeting.

### **Call to the Public**

Michelle Gayles with Valley of the Sun United Way commented on ECAP implementation. Ms. Gayles requested that the Members remember that implementation will need to be considered on a statewide level and that members be thoughtful of this as discussions move forward.

### **Adjourn**

With no further business before the Taskforce, Carolyn Warner motioned to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Diane McCarthy and unanimously approved. The meeting was adjourned at 4:57pm.